

A1

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein:
the database comprises a plurality of information objects including the first information object and the keyword list and a hierarchy of keywords within the keyword list;
each information object within the plurality of information objects has at least one related keyword within the keyword list.; and
the hierarchy defines a relationship among the keywords within the plurality of keywords.

A2

B1

7. (Amended) A data processing system-implemented method of formulating a query comprising:
receiving a first signal that includes or is used to form a first query having a first keyword; and
automatically expanding the first query to a second query, wherein:
a keyword list includes the first keyword and a second keyword;
automatically expanding the first query is performed using the keyword list;
and
the second query includes the first keyword and the second keyword that is not present within the first query.

A3

13. (Amended) A data processing system readable medium having code embodied therein, the code including instructions executable by a data processing system, wherein the instructions are configured to cause the data processing system to perform a method of searching for a plurality of information objects, wherein the method comprises:
accessing a keyword list comprising keywords, wherein the keywords includes a first keyword and a second keyword;
receiving a first signal that includes or is used to form a first query, wherein the first query includes the first keyword;
expanding the first query to a second query using the keyword list, wherein the second query includes the first keyword and a second keyword;
searching the database using the second query; and

- A5*
- finding a first identifier for a first information object that corresponds to the second query, wherein the first information object is part of the plurality of information objects.
14. (Amended) The data processing system readable medium of claim 13, wherein:
the database comprises a plurality of information objects including the first information object and the keyword list including the first keyword and the second keyword;
each information object within the plurality of information objects has at least one related keyword within the keyword list.;
a hierarchy defines a relationship among the keywords within the plurality of keywords.
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18. (Amended) The data processing system readable medium of claim 14, wherein the method further comprises:
determining an association score between each keyword within the first query and each keyword within the second query based at least in part upon their positions within the hierarchy; and
calculating a first relevance score for the first information object, wherein:
at least one first relevancy rating is obtained for the first information object;
the first relevance score includes a first sum divided by a number of keywords within the second query;
the first sum includes a first summation of first products; and
for each keyword within the second query, its first product includes a corresponding first association score and a corresponding first relevance rating.
19. (Amended) A data processing system readable medium having code embodied therein, the code including instructions executable by a data processing system, wherein the instructions are configured to cause the data processing system to perform a method of formulating a query, wherein the method comprises:
receiving a first signal that includes or is used to form a first query having a first keyword; and